

## **Public Awareness Workshop Minutes**

**TITLE:** Public Awareness Workshop in Tsageri Community

**DATE:** 05.13.2011

**VENUE:** Tsageri Municipality (Gamgeoba) Building

**Speakers:**

**Dennis McCandless**, HIPP Project, Black & Veatch, Professional Engineer  
**Mariam Bakhtadze**, Environmental Specialist, Deloitte, HIPP Project  
**Avtandil Lomiashvili**, Engineer, Deloitte, HIPP Project

**Background:**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP) supports development of a minimum 400 MW in new, run-of-the-river hydropower stations in Georgia. This project is managed by Deloitte Consulting. As part of this program, HIPP has identified a cluster of project sites along the Tskhenistskali River. HIPP is now conducting pre-feasibility studies for two projects with a total capacity of 230 MW. These two HPP sites are on the River Tskhenistskali in Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti Region, near Lentekhi and Tsageri.

The HIPP team is preparing basic technical studies to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of the projects. As part of this process, public awareness workshop was held in Tsageri community to ensure community involvement at the early planning stage, identify areas of community concern, and gather feedback from local residents.

The project profiles, HIPP information leaflets and USAID energy map was used as supportive documentation. Meeting agenda, advertisement, list of participants and photos are attached to this document as illustrative materials.

**Aim of the Workshop:**

- To increase awareness of local communities on small and medium run-of-the-river hydro power plans and promote their support to such activities;
- To inform local community the goal of the project and ensure their involvement at the early planning stage;
- Identify community concerns regarding the possible development of the project and gain their feedback; ensure positive attitude towards the project and increase cooperation perspectives between public and project developers.

**Workshop Process:**

The purpose of the meetings was to provide information and get the opinions of the locals related to the project. The date, place and the scope of these meeting was preliminary informed and agreed with Tsageri and Lentekhi Municipalities during HIPP team field visits. Meeting date

and venue were agreed with local Municipalities; Public workshop was announced through advertisements and distributed to the both municipalities as well as distributed through electronic media sources (CENN mailing list).

The primary stakeholders (landowners, vendors, hawkers, and local authorities) were identified by HIPP team and informal meetings were conducted beforehand during field trips. During those preliminary meetings stakeholders were informed about the planned public awareness workshop and were asked their attendance. Besides, HIPP team facilitated attendance of both municipality members on the workshop. Totally 45 community members were attending the workshop (attached see list of participants).

During the workshop HIPP team members provide information about project in general, and discussed technical characteristics of the proposed HPP project as well as possible environmental and social impact. Issue that project will not create significant impoundment causing displacement of adjacent population was stressed during the workshop.

The HIPP team stressed the importance of public participation in early project design phase. Participants have been asked to express their opinion/attitude towards the project in general as well as impact on environment and socio-economic conditions of their household.

The municipality representatives mentioned a few considerations about the project impacts both environmental and socio-economic point of view.

**Key issues/concerns rose by community members were as follows:**

- Few questions were asked about the landslide risks and previous experiences with similar types of projects such as Ladjanuri HPP; Lajanuri reservoir is 25.0 million m<sup>3</sup> on overall, useful volume is 17.0 million m<sup>3</sup> and surface area is 1.6 km<sup>2</sup>. The Lajanuri reservoir operates the Lajanuri HPP with installed capacity of 112 MW; reservoir entered into operation in 1960. Currently reservoir is full with sediments. Frequent uninformed release of the water from reservoir cause impact on downstream population and land users (water floods their agricultural lands and homes);
- Local benefits of project; Community members were interested whether they could benefit from the low electricity tariffs;
- To employ local population during the project implementation;

Certain fear of local population relates to possible change of ecological conditions within the project impact area resulting in negative outcomes for agricultural, historical-cultural objects as well as increase of landslide risks; Laganuri hydro is already operating in Tsageri community and the development of two more hydro's (Namakhvani and Tsageri-Lentekhi) has been planned. This issue triggered community members to questioning the cumulative impact on Tskhenistskali watershed from operating three hydro power plants.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The Tsageri public awareness workshop outcome is as follows:

- Generally, community's attitude towards the project development is positive; Community members think they could benefit from development of project in case the project developers properly consider their concerns/suggestions and watershed characteristics. On the other hand, community members are willing to

cooperate with HPP project developers. From operation of the HPP local population expects to receive new job opportunities;

- It was agreed that further development of the project would be further discussed with the community members.

### **Other Needs and Suggestions**

- For ensuring participatory attitudes and practices in HPP community it would be reasonable to develop informative leaflet covering issues associated with the project development, including environmental implications and distribute to the communities during organizing the meetings.

The table below shows the photos of Public Awareness Workshop in Tsageri Municipality.

**Table 1. Pictures of the public awareness workshop**



## **Attachment A: Public Awareness Workshop Agenda**

### **Public Awareness Meeting for Tskhenistskali HPP Cascade Project**

#### **Agenda**

**13 May, 2011, Lentekhi Municipality Gamgeoba Building**

11:00–11:15	Registration		
	<b>Introductions</b>	<b>Moderator :</b>	Duration
11.15–11.20	Opening Remarks	HIPP/D. McCandless, Local Municipality	5 min
11:20–11:30	HIPP Project Descriptions	HIPP/A. Lomiashvili/G. Chikovani	10 min
11:30–12:00	HPP Project Outline	HIPP/A. Lomiashvili	30 min
12:00–12:20	Presentation of Identified Environmental/Social Issues	HIPP/M. Bakhtadze	20 min
	<b>Questions and Discussion</b>		
12:20–13.45	Filling Out of Meeting Questionnaire  Discussion • Socioeconomic Issues • Environmental Issues • Public Health & Safety Issues • Construction Issues	Facilitated by HIPP / I. Iremashvili  Facilitated by HIPP / I. Iremashvili	1 hour and 25 min
13:45–14:00	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	HIPP/D.McCandless, Local Municipality	15 min

**Attachment B: Public Awareness Advertisement (distributed in Georgian and English languages)****Announcement:****Subject:** Public Awareness Meeting in Tsageri and Lentekhi Communities**Project:** Hydropower Investment Promotion Project**Dear Sir/Madam,**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP) supports development of a minimum 400 MW in new, run-of-the-river hydropower stations in Georgia. This project is managed by Deloitte Consulting. As part of this program, HIPP has identified a cluster of project sites along the Tskhenistskali River. HIPP is now conducting pre-feasibility studies for two projects with a total capacity of 230 MW. These two HPP sites are on the River Tskhenistskali in Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti Region, near Lentekhi and Tsageri.

The HIPP team is preparing basic technical studies to evaluate the technical and economical feasibility of the projects. As part of this process a public awareness workshop will be held to ensure community involvement at the early planning stage, identify areas of community concern, and gather feedback from local residents.

Therefore, we are pleased to invite you to participate in this public meeting, which will be held on **May 13 2011** in Tsageri Municipality, Gamgeoba Building, #64 Rustaveli Street, Tsageri, Georgia; at a time of 11:00.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Mariam Bakhtadze by telephone (+995 32) 23 45 70/71 or e-mail: [mbakhtadze@dcop-hipp.ge](mailto:mbakhtadze@dcop-hipp.ge). Enclosed please find a copy of the workshop's agenda.

Please be advised the workshop will be conducted in Georgian.

Sincerely,

**Michael James Delphia**

**Deloitte Consulting LLP**  
**Chief of Party**  
**USAID-funded Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP)**  
**I. Chavchavadze Avenue 17b, Suite 1**  
**Tbilisi, 0179, Georgia**  
**Tel: [+995 32]-22 45 70/71**

Event Name		
Dates	05.13.2001	12.00-03.00 pm

#	First Name, Last Name	Position	Contact Details	Comment
1	Miranda Saghinadze	Deputy "Gamgebeli" (Governor), Tsageri Municipality "Gamgeoba" (Governor's Office)	877 95 25 35	<i>Interested in other similar practices, Concerned about the implications of Ladjanuri HPP, tried to discuss the measures to avoid negative impact.</i>
2	Tsito Partsuliani	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	899 74 58 56	<i>Negative attitude towards constructions of HPPs due to their influence on Tsageri agricultural lands and flooding.</i>
3	Venera Goletiani	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	899 90 57 37	
4	Mamuka Letodiani	Chairman, Tsageri Municipality "Sakrebulo" (Council)	899 29 56 13	<i>More constructive and eager to cooperate to avoid possible complications on social and environmental issues in the region</i>
5	Lela Bakhsoliani	Chief Specialist, Administration, Tsageri Municipality "Gamgeoba"	898 20 98 22	
6	Inga Burdjaliani	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	895 56 98 47	
7	Mzekala Leshkali	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	895 50 99 98	
8	Mevlud Meshveliani	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	851 27 58 27	
9	Mirza Khometiani	Head of Administration, Tsageri Municipality	851 40 31 40	<i>Very active, aware of anticipated results and concerned about negative implications of project implementation; requiring certain compensation measures</i>
10	Mirian Saghinadze	Chief Specialist, Economy and Property Management Department, Tsageri Municipality	891 13 49 13	
11	Bondo Melitauri	Specialist, Economy and Property Management Department, Tsageri Municipality	895 26 84 68	
12	Temur Silagadze	Chief Specialist, Economic Service, Tsageri Municipality	899 90 987 10	
13	Avto Epadze	Head of Community, Village Chkhuneti	895 49 18 01	
14	Badri Chokhonelidze	Specialist, Infrastructure and Logistics Service, Tsageri Municipality	898 22 07 85	
15	Zaur Benidze	Leading Specialist in Tourism Issues, Tsageri Municipality	899 25 50 04	
16	Kakha Tskhvediani	Head of Financial and Budgeting Department, Tsageri Municipality		
17	Giorgi Kopaliani	Tsageri Municipality	899 13 70 73	



18	Giorgi Gugava	Tsageri Municipality Cultural Center	898 10 65 72	
19	Giorgi Omanidze	Tsageri Municipality	890 34 43 21	
20	Vakhtang Benidze	Village Zubi Community Member	899 35 79 42	
21	Nugzar Esvaldiani	Tsageri Municipality	839 14 03 52	
22	Malvina Silagadze	Tsageri Municipality	899 26 69 31	
23	Sopho Gvishiani	Head of Architecture and Supervisory Department, Tsageri Municipality "Gamgeoba"	899 27 58 08	
24	Rostom Burjaliani	Tsageri Municipality	899 78 47 02	
25	Nani Shengelia	Tsageri Municipality	890 34 43 70	
26	Khatia Akhvlediani	Administrative Assistant to "Gamgebeli", Tsageri Municipality	891 66 26 94	
27	Diana Tsvariani	Administrative Service, Tsageri Municipality	898 51 43 58	
28	Takhu Chankseliani	Chief Specialist, Lentekhi Municipality "Gamgeoba"	895 97 80 96	
29	Tornike Gugava	Lentekhi Municipality "Sakrebulo"	851 97 80 96	
30	Tornike Mukbaniani	Lentekhi Municipality "Sakrebulo"	851 32 32 15	
31	Mamuka Liparteliani	Lentekhi Municipality "Sakrebulo"	899 69 92 38	<i>Interested in other similar practices, cooperative and concerned about environmental issues</i>
32	Bezhan Chumburidze	Vice-Chairman, "Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality	899 55 50 52	<i>More positive expectations and ready for constructive cooperation with the project team and the authorities</i>
33	Tamar Davituliani	Chief Specialist, Public Relations department, Lentekhi Municipality	899 95 16 78	
34	Tsitsino Pandjaradze	Chief Specialist, Tsageri Municipality	890 15 58 01	
35	Irine Liparteliani	Chairman of Commission, Lentekhi "Sakrebulo"	899 24 39 54	
36	Boris Liparteliani	Head of Architecture and Constructions Department, Lentekhi Municipality	899 69 43 32	
37	Marika Kopaliani	Chief Specialist, "Gamgeoba", Tsageri Municipality	898 18 64 24	
38	Iuzi Mindadze	Specialist, "Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality	851 16 10 98	
39	Gocha Gurguchiani	"Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality	899 23 80 67	
40	Ghiorgie Murtskhvaladze	Specialist, "Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality		
41	Davit Mamardashvili	Specialist, "Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality	899 22 42 17	
42	Ghela Mamardashvili	Specialist, "Sakrebulo", Tsageri Municipality	895 17 99 07	
43	Maya Gughava	Specialist, "Gamgeoba", Tsageri Municipality	877 95 25 22	
44	Ladie Kacharava	Specialist, "Gamgeoba", Tsageri Municipality		
45	German Khurasbediani	Head of Department, "Gamgeoba" Lentekhi Municipality	899 51 34 20	

**PREPARED BY: Irina Iremashvili**

**APPROVED BY: Michael Jake Delphia, CoP**